

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under the doctrine of double patenting in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,636,771 B1, commonly assigned to the same assignee of the present invention. Reconsideration of the rejections is solicited in view of the terminal disclaimer filed jointly with this response.

Applicant has amended claims 3, 5 and 7 to correct claim number dependency. This correction is not necessitated for patentability reasons but to correct typographical oversights. Similarly, claim 6 has been amended to enhance its clarity and is not made for patentability reasons.

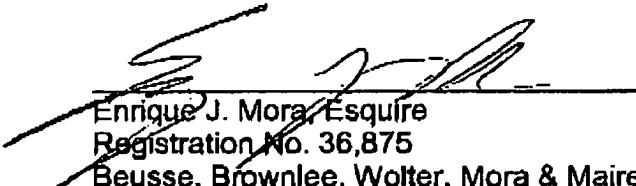
New claims directed to an article of manufacture have been added to capture aspects of the invention to which applicant is appropriately entitled to. No new subject matter has been introduced and the scope of such claims is consistent with the scope of the claims that have undergone examination and thus are in condition ready for allowance.

It is respectfully submitted that each of the claims pending in this application recites patentable subject matter and it is further submitted that such claims comply with all statutory requirements and thus each of such claims should be allowed.

The applicant appreciates the Examiner's efforts for conducting a thorough examination, and cordially invites the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney if there are any outstanding items that may be resolved via telephone conference.

DATED this 24TH day of October, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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